

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5190

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, AR, SHUM, PINT

SUBJ: CHILEAN EXTREMISTS REPORTED KILLED OR DISAPPEARED ABROAD

REF: SANTIAGO 5185

1. SUMMARY. PUBLICATION OF LISTS TALLING 119 NAMES OF ALLEGED CHILEAN MIRISTAS KILLED, WOUNDED, OR ESCAPED ABROAD HAS LED COMMITTEE FOR PEACE TO MAKE INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION OF ITS OWN, RESULT OF WHICH IS BEING DISTRIBUTED TO INTERESTED PARTIES IN CHILE. THERE APPEARS TO BE GROUND FOR SUSPICION THAT GOC AND/OR ITS SECURITY ORGANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO CLOSE BOOK ON THOSE WHO HAVE DIED WHILE IN CUSTODY. END SUMMARY

2. INTER-DENOMINATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN MAY GAVE LIST OF 166 "DISAPPEARED" PERSONS TO MIN JUSTICE SCHWEITZER AND SUPREME COURT PRES EYZAGUIRRE (PARA 5, SANTIAGO 3598). COMMITTEE SPOKESMEN NOW TELL US THAT THEY ASKED SANTIAGO APPEALS COURT TO APPOINT MAGISTRATE TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCES. COURT REFUSED THEIR REQUEST, AND SUPREME COURT UPHOLD REFUSAL BY 9 - 3 DECISION, WITH EYZAGUIRRE IN MINORITY.

3. NOW SPURRED BY ACCOUNTS OF MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES ABROAD (REFTEL), COMMITTEE HAS

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PASSED TO SELECTED EMBASSIES AND SOME REPORTERS TWO STUDIES IT

HAS MADE OF PUBLISHED LIST OF ALLEGED MIRISTAS. COMMITTEE IS ALSO PREPARING TO PUBLISH STATEMENT ON NEED FOR CAREFUL OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF ENTIRE MATTER. COMMITTEE'S FIRST LIST CONTAINS THE 60 NAMES FROM ARGENTINE MAGAZINE "LEA" DESCRIBED AS VICTIMS OF INTERNAL PURGE OF MIR. SECOND LIST CONTAINS NAMES OF 59 ALLEGED MIRISTAS WHICH APPEARED IN BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPER "O'DIA" AS "KILLED, WOUNDED, OR ESCAPED" IN CLASHES WITH ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES. PEACE COMMITTEE REPORTS THAT ALMOST ALL OF TOTAL 119 NAMES WERE ON ITS HARDEST LIST OF 166 PERSONS DISAPPEARED. MOST OF THESE WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LAST SEEN IN CUSTODY OF GOC SECURITY FORCES.

4. PEACE COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS INCLUDE MANY DETAILS OF ALLEGED MIRISTAS: NAMES AND PERSONAL DATA, DATE AND PLACE OF DETENTION OR DISAPPEARANCE, DESCRIPTION AND IN A FEW CASES IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS CARRYING OUT ARREST, RECORD OF WHO WITNESSED AND REPORTED DETENTION, LEGAL STEPS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF DETAINEES OR PERSONS DISAPPEARED, AND IN MANY CASES ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT PERSON ACTUALLY WAS DETAINED BY GOC.

5. IN THEIR STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE 119 TOTAL, DOCUMENTS LIST 77 PERSONS ARRESTED, 16 DISAPPEARED (I.E. NO DIRECT EVIDENCE OF DETENTION BUT STRONG PRESUMPTION OF IT), AND 26 PROBABLY ARRESTED. THEY ALSO SHOW PERIOD WHEN PERSONS WERE DETAINED OR DISAPPEARED, WITH PREPONDERANCE FROM MAY - OCT 1974, 82 PERSONS; NOV - DEC 1974, 22 PERSONS; AND 1975, 14 PERSONS. COPIES OF TWO LISTS BEING POUCHED TO ARA/BC.

6. PEACE COMMITTEE REPS TOLD ADCM THEY BELIEVE MOST PERSONS NAMED IN THEIR STUDIES ARE MEMBERS OF OR CONNECTED WITH MIR OR OTHER EXTREMIST GROUPS. THEY NOTE THAT EVIDENCE OF DETENTION BY GOC SECURITY FORCES VARIES IN SPECIFIC CASES, BUT STATE THERE IS AT LEAST PRESUMPTION OF DETENTION IN ALL CASES. MOST CONCLUSIVE ARE FEW CASES IN WHICH ICRC OR GOC AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES HAD CERTIFIED DETENTION. THERE ARE ALSO HALF DOZEN CASES WHERE A PERSON KNOWN TO BE A MEMBER OF SECURITY FORCES (DINA) MADE ARREST; MANY WHERE UNIFORMED POLICE (CARABINEROS) PARTICIPATED IN ARRESTS, AND OTHERS WHERE PERSONS SAW INDIVIDUALS IN PLACES OF DETENTION. COMMITTEE REPS SAY THAT DETAINEES COULD HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM DETENTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE

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KNOWLEDGE, BUT ADD THAT IF SO SUCH PERSONS MUST HAVE GONE UNDERGROUND. SINCE NO FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND HAS RECEIVED INDICATION THAT ANY OF PERSONS LISTED HAS BEEN FREED.

7. PEACE COMMITTEE REPS FEAR LISTED PERSONS ARE DEAD. THEY SPECULATE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE BUT HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT WHOLE MATTER IS A PLOY OF MIR ITSELF TO CREATE ENOUGH PRESSURE

ON GOC TO FORCE IT TO DIVULGE INFORMATION ON ACTIVISTS. THEY THINK IT MORE LIKELY THAT MOST OF THOSE ON LISTS WERE DETAINED BY GOC SECURITY FORCES AND DIED IN CUSTODY, AND THAT THEIR BODIES WERE DISPOSED OF IN CHILE. WITH UNHRC VISIT IMPENDING, SECURITY FORCES MAY HAVE FELT PRESSURE SOMEHOW TO ACCOUNT FOR THE 166 MISSING PERSONS WHO WERE WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE IN THEIR HANDS. THEY MAY HAVE CONCERTED WITH ARGENTINE SECURITY AUTHORITIES AND THOSE OF OTHER NEARBY COUNTRIES, OR WITH ARGENTINE RIGHTIST GROUPS SUCH AS AAA, IN CONCOCTING STORY OF DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCE ABROAD.

8. COMMENT: ADCM DISCUSSED WITH CARDINAL'S REP ON PEACE COMMITTEE SPECULATION THAT REPORTS RE DETENTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN FABRICATED BY EXTREMIST MOVEMENTS THEMSELVES AS WAY TO REMOVE PRESSURE FROM THEIR PEOPLE AND GIVE IMPRESSION THAT GOC WAS ILLEGALLY HOLDING OR DISPOSING OF ITS NATIONALS. CLERGYMAN SAID MOST OF PEACE COMMITTEE STAFF HAD BEEN ALLENDE SYMPATHIZERS OR SUPPORTERS, AND THEIR ANTI-GOC BIAS IS EVIDENT. HE THOUGH, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE TOO MANY CASES, TOO WELL DOCUMENTED, AND FAMILIES CONCERNED WERE TOO ANGUISHED TO GIVE VERACITY TO THIS HYPOTHESIS.

9. EMBASSY HAS INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE THAT GOC SECURITY FORCES HAVE DETAINED AND HELD PERSONS WITHOUT ACCOUNTING FOR THEM, AND THAT SOME HAVE DIED IN CUSTODY. WE CAN BELIEVE IN ADDITION THAT SOME "DISAPPEARED" PERSONS INDEED WENT UNDERGROUND. WHATEVER THE FACTS, STORIES EXPECTED TO EMERGE IN FOREIGN PRESS ARE LIKELY TO PUT GOC IN VERY BAD LIGHT.
POPPER

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